ARTICLES

OF

ENQUIRY

Concerning certain MATTERS

ECCLESIASTICAL,

EXHIBITED

To the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Pariſh within the

ARCH-DEACONRY

OF

BEDFORD:

For their better direction in their Preſentments in the

VISITATION

OF

THEOPHILUS DILLINGHAM D. D.

Arch-Deacon of *BEDFORD.*

CAMBRIDGE,

Printed in the Year 1669.

The Tenour of the Oath of the Church-wardens and Side-men of every Parish.

YOu shall well and faithfully execute the office of Church-wardens (or Side-men) in the Parish of N. *and true presentment make of such defaults and offences, as you know to be enquirable by the laws Ecclesiastical of this Land.*

So help you God.

Articles of Enquiry within the Arch-Deaconry of BEDFORD.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and their Poſſeſſions, with the furniture and ornaments, thereunto belonging.

1 IS your Church or Chappel with the Chancel and Steeple thereof in good and ſufficient repair both within and without?

2 Are all things therein cleanly kept, free from any thing that may be noiſome or unſeemly?

3 Hath any part thereof been demoliſhed or pulled down? have any of the bells, lead, timber, or utenſils, heretofore belonging to the ſame, been imbezelled, or converted to private uſes during, or ſince the late War?

4 Have you in your Church or Chappel, a large Bible of the laſt tranſlation, the book of Common Prayer lately eſtabliſhed, the book of Homilies allowed by authority, the table of degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited, as alſo a Regiſter-book in Parchment, for Chriſtenings, Marriages and Burials; and is the ſame kept in all points as is required?

5 Have you a Font of ſtone ſtanding in the uſual place for Publick Baptiſme, and doth your Miniſter therein onely baptize Publickly?

6 Have you a decent Communion-table, with a carpet, and another covering of white linen to be ſpread thereon, at the time of the adminiſtration of the Lord's Supper? What cup, chalice, patten or flagons have you belonging to that Service?

7 Have you a convenient Seat or Pew for your Miniſter to read Service in, a comely Pulpit ſet in a convenient place to preach the

word in, with a decent cloth or cushion for the same? have you also a large Surplice for the use of your Minister in his publick administrations?

8 Have you a book for the Church-warden's accounts, a box for the Alms for the poor, a strong chest with locks and keys wherein may be safely kept the plate, vessels, carpets, vestments and books belonging to the Church? And have you a Bier with a Herse-cloth for the decent burial of the dead?

9 Is there any strife or contention among any of your Parish about the Pews or Seats in your Church or Chappel? Have any new Pews or Monuments been erected there without licence, or any old Monuments or Ornaments of your Church or Chappel been defaced contrary to law, and by whom?

10 Is your Church-yard well and sufficiently fenced, & decently kept, without abuse or nusances? Have any encroached upon the ground thereof; or cut down any trees growing therein, unless for necessary reparation of the Church or Chancel?

11 Have you in your Parish a house for your Minister to dwell in? Is the same, with the out-houses thereunto belonging in good and sufficient repair? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without licence?

12 Have you a true and perfect Terrar of all the Glebe-lands and tenements belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, taken by the view of your Minister, and other honest men of your Parish? as also a note of such pensions, rate-tithes, and portions of tithes both within and without your Parish, as belong thereunto? And is a copy thereof delivered into the Bishops Registry?

13 Is there any Alms-house, Hospital, or Free-School, (being not of the Kings foundation) in your Parish, and are they and their endowments preserved and employed to their right use?

14 Have any dying in your Parish given any legacy to the Church, or Poor, which hath been misemployed and disposed of to other uses?

Tit. II.

Concerning Miniſters.

1 HAve you a ſetled Miniſter in your Pariſh? If not, how long have you been deſtitute? What is the living yearly worth, and who is the Patron thereof? By whom are the fruits received and how are they diſpoſed of?

2 Is your Miniſter (ſo far as you know or believe) in holy Orders according to the laws of the Church of *England*?

3 Doth he diligently attend upon his Miniſtery, in reading the leſſons and prayers, preaching the word, adminiſtring the Sacraments, Catechizing the youth, viſiting the ſick, and in all other the offices of his Miniſterial function, in ſuch manner, form and habit, as is directed by the Book of Common Prayer lately eſtabliſhed, and the Act for Uniformity therewith publiſhed?

4 Doth he give notice of the Holy days, and of the Ember-weeks, that the People may be minded to pray for ſuch as are to be ſolemnly called to the work of the Miniſtery? As alſo of the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, for preſerving the bounds of the Pariſh, and for deſiring Gods bleſſing upon the fruits of the earth? Doth he alſo obſerve the fifth of *November*, the 30th of *January*, and the 29th of *May*, according to the Statutes and Orders ſet forth in that behalf?

5 Is his Doctrine (ſo far as you can judge) agreeable to the Word of God, and the 39 Articles agreed upon, and publiſhed *Anno Dom.* 1562?

6 Hath he at any time, that you know of, publickly or otherwiſe ſpoken againſt the Order or Government of the Church of *England* as is now by law eſtabliſhed?

7 Doth he adminiſter the Sacraments in private houſes otherwiſe then is by law allowed?

8 Doth he every year publiſh in your Church or Chappel, the Statute againſt profane ſwearing, and curſing, according as it is thereby enacted? 21 *Jac. cap.* 20.

9 Doth

9 Doth he permit any ſtrange Miniſter to preach in your Church or Chappel, who is not ſufficiently authorized thereunto?

10 Doth he ſerve more then one Church or Chappel in diſtinct Pariſhes upon one day? If ſo, how far diſtant are thoſe Churches or Chappels which he ſo ſerveth, and what wages, and ſalary hath he for his pains?

11 Is your Miniſter a man of a godly, ſober and peaceable converſation? or on the contrary, is he a frequenter of Taverns or Alehouſes, or doth he board therein? Is he a Common Gameſter, a profane Swearer, an obſcene Jeſter, or an intemperate Drinker? Is he vehemently ſuſpected of incontinency? Is he a fomenter of ſuits and contention among neighbours? Doth he give himſelf to any baſe or ſervile labour, or ſecular trade, unbefitting the duty and dignity of his office? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for faſhion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his carriage and converſation in any kinde diſorderly, ſcandalous, or unbeſeeming a Miniſter of Jeſus Chriſt?

Tit. III.

Concerning Pariſhioners.

1 DO any of your Pariſh make profeſſion of any other Religion, than what is profeſſed and eſtabliſhed in the Church of *England?* Do any reproach the ſame Religion, or ſeduce others from it, or endeavour to alienate the hearts of the People from their Loyalty and Obedience to the King?

2 Do any abſent themſelves from the publick aſſemblies and Services of the Church? or not come in due time as well to Service as Sermons, or not behave themſelves when they are there with ſuch reverence, order, decency and attention, as is required; or depart thence, before the Service and Sermon be ended, and the bleſſing pronounced?

3 Do any refuſe to ſend their Infant-children to be baptized in your Church or Chappel, unleſs in caſe of extreme danger?

or

or are any children kept unbaptized longer than is allowed? or are there any more aged Persons yet unbaptized? or are any children, not Communicants admitted to be God-fathers or God-mothers in Baptisme?

4 Do the House-holders of your Parish, take care to send their children and servants to your Church or Chappel, there to be instructed in the Church Catechisme, that so they may be brought to understand, and take upon them, their Baptismal covenant, and be confirmed and admitted Communicants?

5. Do all Communicants of your Parish, upon timely notice given by the Minister, thrice at the least every year (once whereof at *Easter*) in that meek and reverend manner which is required, partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper? and do such signifie their names, and purpose to Communicate, unto the Minister at least the day before the Celebration thereof?

6 Are there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married contrary to the laws of God? or any who being lawfully divorced have married again? or any who being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by due course of law, do not cohabit together?

7 Have any been clancularly married in private houses, or in the Church without licence, the Banns not being thrice published, or by licence or without, neither of the Persons so married dwelling at that time in your Town?

8 Do any married Women in your Parish, after their delivery from the danger of Child-birth, refuse in due time to make their publick thanksgiving in your Church for so great a mercy? or to pay their accustomed duties as is required?

9 Are such as die in the Parish, (who are not denied Christian Burial) decently buried according to the order of the Church?

10 Do any profane the Lord's day, by working in their ordinary callings, by tipling, gaming, or any unlawfull exercises, or pastimes?

11 Do any walk, talk, or stand idle in the Church-yard,

or Church-Porch, during the time of Divine Service or Sermon?

12 Do any quarrel, chide, brawl, ſmite, or lay violent hands upon any other, either in the Church or Church-yard? 5 and *6 Edw. 6.* C. 4.

13 Have any irreverently uſed your Miniſter, or ſpoken ſlanderous or reproachfull words againſt him, to the ſcandal of his vocation? or interrupted him in his adminiſtrations?

14 Do any refuſe to reckon with him at *Eaſter*? or to pay unto him ſuch Eccleſiaſtical duties as are then accuſtomably due, and to be paid?

15 Do any refuſe to pay the Rates aſſeſſed upon them, for the repair of the Church or Chappel, and the providing of Books, Utenſils, and other neceſſary Ornaments for the ſame?

16 Are there any in your Pariſh Blaſphemers of Gods Holy name? Any common Drunkards or Swearers? any commonly known, or ſuſpected to be guilty of fornication, adultery, inceſt, or any other notorious Crime of Eccleſiaſtical cognizance: Declare who they are that they may be puniſhed according to their deſerts.

Tit. IV.

Concerning Church-wardens.

ARe the Church-wardens of your Pariſh yearly and duly choſen? Have the former, and laſt Church-wardens given up their accounts to the Miniſter and Pariſhioners, and alſo delivered up to their Succeſſours the moneys remaining in their hands together with all things elſe, belonging to your Church or Chappel?

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TIT. V.

Concerning Pariſh Clerks.

HAve you a Pariſh Clerk, choſen by your Miniſter, of twenty years of age at leaſt? Is he of ability to perform his duty, and doth he perform the ſame in all reſpects as is required of him? Are his accuſtomed wages duly paid unto him? or do any withhold the ſame from him?

IF you know any other default or crime of Eccleſiaſtical Cognizance not expreſt in theſe Articles, you are likewiſe to preſent the ſame, and therein to take the aſſiſtance of your Miniſter.

The Miniſter of every Pariſh, may joyn in preſentment with the Church-wardens and Side-men: and if they will not preſent ſuch enormities as require reformation, the Miniſter himſelf, (being the Perſon that ſhould have the chief care for the ſuppreſſing of ſin and impiety in the Pariſh) may preſent the ſame.

FINIS.